

Site Evaluation: Why Important?

- Use information to estimate number of lakes
 - that are in United States
 - that are physically inaccessible
 - that landowners deny access
 - that are in NHD but not actually lakes
- Over time this will be less important as improvements are made to lake sample frame – need to invest in this effort



Lake Evaluation and Recon Steps

- Step 1: Initial Screen: national
 - Completed by Tetra-Tech/USEPA
- Step 2: Desktop Reconnaissance: state
 - Initial lake evaluation to identify obvious
 - Based on GIS, topo maps, local knowledge
 - Information necessary for field recon if needed
 - Landownership identified
 - Acquire information required to complete field sampling
- Step 3: Field Reconnaissance: state
 - Initial field visit to verify lake evaluation for lakes that could not be evaluated in step 2.
 - May not require landowner permission
 - Acquire information required to complete field sampling
- Step 4: Acquire landowner permission: state
- Step 5: Field sampling and final lake evaluation: state



Lake Evaluation Forms

- Standard national lake evaluation form
 - Designed to be scanned for data entry
 - Forms submitted
 - weekly (?) for processing
 - State keeps copy
 - Every lake provided to state must have a submitted lake evaluation form
- Field sampling forms submitted only for those lakes visited with the intention to sample
 - Most lakes will include field measurement forms
 - Few lakes will only have field lake evaluation form when the waterbody is determined not to be a lake.



Quality Assurance Lake Evaluations

- Critical that all use the same lake evaluation process
- Consistency, consistency, consistency...
 - Application of criteria for being a lake
 - Effort to gain landowner permission
 - Physical access effort